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#355

Do You Want To Offer ALL Your Cropland to the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank

If you farm in Illinois, Maine, or Nebraska, you can offer to take *all* your cropland out of production—and set the dollars-per-acre rental rate that you are willing to accept for putting it in the Conservation Reserve.

Your offer must be made to your County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee not later than January 31, 1958.

Acceptance by the U. S. Department of Agriculture through the County ASC Committee will be on the basis of the lowest acceptable "bids." Any or all offers or "bids" may be rejected by the Department.

Your County ASC office can give you the details of this *trial* "bid" plan. You can get the necessary "bid" forms from your County ASC office.

A similar trial bid plan is also available in Tennessee.

How the New Bid Plan Differs

In the regular Conservation Reserve program, your County ASC Committee makes a dollars-per-acre offer to you to put all or a part of your cropland into the program.

Under the trial plan, you make an offer or "bid" to your County ASC Committee of the dollars per acre you are willing to accept for putting all your eligible land into the reserve.

Annual Payment Limit Raised

Maximum annual payment to any one farmer is increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 under the "bid" plan. This \$10,000 limit applies to the special trial program and only to farmers whose offers to put all their eligible land in the program are accepted by the County ASC Committees for the Department of Agriculture.

Contracts May Be for 10 Years

Contracts made through the bid plan may be for as many as 10 years, and must be for at least 5 years.

The contract will be for 10 years if any of the land put in the Reserve will be planted to forest trees.

When you submit your offer, you state the number of years you want your contract to be in effect. Where possible, preference will be given to 10-year contracts.

If Some Land Already Is In The Soil Bank

You may submit an offer to your County ASC Committee even though you already have some land in the Conservation Reserve, in the Acreage Reserve, or in both programs.

If you now have land in the Conservation Reserve, and your offer to put the remaining cropland in the program is accepted, the new contract will include all your land for the same number of years. The rate of annual payment previously established for the land already in the Conservation Reserve will remain the same.

If you have land in the 1958 Acreage Reserve, and your bid to put all cropland into the Conservation Reserve is accepted, this land will go into the Conservation Reserve January 1, 1959. In the meantime, you can earn the Acreage Reserve payment called for in that agreement.

Figuring Your Offer

If you decided to rent all your cropland to another farmer, you would set a rental rate. You would set a figure based on productivity of your land, its value, and going rental rates in your neighborhood.

It would be a realistic rate—one that should attract a good tenant and be acceptable to both of you.

In figuring a dollars-per-acre rate you are willing to accept to "rent" all your cropland to the Conservation Reserve for 5 to 10 years, you will want to consider some other facts.

After you have established the conservation uses, your land will be protected and improved while it is in the Conservation Reserve. You will receive long-term benefits from maintaining your land in grass, trees, in water storage, or in wildlife cover.

You will receive up to 80 percent of the cost of establishing these conservation uses.

You will be saved the cost of growing crops, including the cost of labor and fertilizer.

Your income from Conservation Reserve land will be safe from the hazards of drought, flood, hail, and crop pests.

Where and When To Submit Offers

All offers must be submitted to County ASC Committees not later than January 31, 1958. County ASC offices have the necessary bid forms.

Only "whole farm" offers will be considered.

If Your Offer Is Accepted

Your County ASC Committee will notify you within about 3 weeks after the closing date whether your offer is accepted or rejected. If your offer is accepted, your contract is effective at once, subject to the accurate determination of your acreage. You then can begin as soon as possible to establish the approved conservation uses.

No Crops May Be Harvested

No crops may be harvested, no livestock grazed on, nor hay crops taken from Conservation Reserve land. You also agree not to break out any new land for crop production.

You may harvest forest products under good forest management practices from land planted to forest trees. Harvesting of Christmas trees or ornamental greens is not permitted.

Hunting, Fishing Permitted

You may hunt or fish on Conservation Reserve land. You are not permitted to open a commercial hunting or fishing establishment on this land.

If Your Offer Is Rejected

If your County ASC Committee is unable to accept your offer, you still may participate in the regular Conservation Reserve program by putting all or part of your cropland into the reserve at the rate offered by the County ASC Committee.

Regular Program Continues

The regular Conservation Reserve remains available to farmers in all States, including Illinois, Maine, Nebraska, and Tennessee, where the "bid" plan is being tried.

